

REMARKS TO “RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS”

The examiner states “although not applied, White, et al. would lead to limitations of claims 1-8.” Applicants respectfully submit that White can be distinguished from the applicant’s invention. White teaches a system and method to measure the thickness of a multi layer article. More specifically White teaches that a paint layer or other film layer on a substrate may have the thickness of that layer measured. No assessment of the internal structure of the multilayer article is made by White.

Furthermore, White uses a portion of the detection laser to stabilize the interferometer. Applicants’ invention is stabilized using only the phase modulated light collected by the collection optics. (10/634,342, Page 19, lines 25-29) This increases the over all signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) of the output signal of the interferometer by eliminating the need for a portion of the detection signal to be used to stabilize the interferometer.

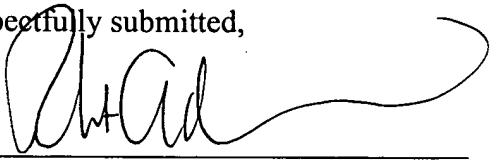
Applicants respectfully submit that amended Claims 1 and 4 process the data representative of ultrasonic surface displacements on the surface of the remote target to assess the structural integrity of a composite structure. This is provided in the last element of amended claim 1: “processing the data representative of the surface displacements to assess the structural integrity of the remote target.” Additionally, Claim 4 adds “a scanning optical assembly operable to direct the first pulsed laser beam and second pulsed laser beam to the surface of the remote target.” Applicants’ invention allows a sensor to scan the entire surface of the remote target while White’s scanning head merely examines a single point on the material to be tested.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 1-19.

While Applicants believe no fee is due with this transmission, if any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-2240 of Koestner Bertani.

Respectfully submitted,

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